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FM THE SITUATION ROOM //TOHAK 26//
TO PETER RODMAN FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER

UNCLAS VIA BLACK PATCH WH40788

TOHAK 26

UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL ON THE MIDDLE EAST

ISRAEL IS AWAITING A UNITED NATIONS REPORT TODAY ON ITS CHARGES THAT EGYPT HAS MOVED MORE HEAVY GUNS INTO THE SINAI THAN ALLOWED BY THE AGREEMENT ON TROOP DISENGAGEMENT THERE.

WHILE THE DAILY SHELLING CONTINUES ON THE NORTHERN FRONT BETWEEN ISRAEL AND SYRIA, THE SOUTHERN FRONT BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL HAS BEEN CALM SINCE AMERICAN SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY A. KISSINGER ARRANGED THE TROOP DISENGAGEMENT IN JANUARY. KISSINGER IS NOW TRYING FOR A SIMILAR DISENGAGEMENT IN THE NORTH.

THE ISRAELI COMMAND SAID ONE DRUZE VILLAGER WAS KILLED IN THE 15TH SUCCESSIVE DAY OF SHELLING IN THE GOLAN HEIGHTS TUESDAY AND ONE ISRAELI SOLDIER WOUNDED. MILITARY SPOKESMEN IN DAMASCUS SAID AN ISRAELI ARTILLERY ATTACK ON THE SYRIAN VILLAGE OF AL HARRA KILLED FOUR CIVILIANS, INCLUDING TWO CHILDREN, AND TWO SYRIAN SOLDIERS.

UNITED NATIONS OFFICERS INSPECTED EGYPTIAN BATTERIES ON THE SINAI FRONT TUESDAY IN RESPONSE TO THE ISRAEL COMPLAINT OF VIOLATIONS. ISRAELI MILITARY SOURCES SAID THEY EXPECTED TO RECEIVE THE INSPECTION REPORT TODAY.

"THE EGYPTIANS VIOLATED THE AGREEMENT," ISRAELI DEFENSE MINISTER MOSHE DAYAN TOLD A GROUP OF AMERICAN JEWISH FUND RAISERS, "BUT WE HOPE THAT THEY WILL REMOVE THE EXTRA CANNONS FROM THIS ZONE AND THAT IN FUTURE, THEY WILL OBSERVE THE AGREEMENT, WHICH APPARENTLY IS NOT EASILY MAINTAINED."

THE NEWSPAPER MAARIV SAID U.S. INTELLIGENCE REPORTED THAT EGYPT HAD MOVED 80 CANNONS, INCLUDING 10 PIECES OF 130MM WEAPONRY, INTO POSITION.

"THE WRITTEN AGREEMENT SAYS EACH SIDE CAN HAVE ONLY SIX

*****WHSR COMMENT*****

SECFL

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BATTERIES AND IT WAS AGREED ORALLY ON FOUR TO SIX CANNONS IN EACH OF THESE," SAID RESERVE MAJ. GEN. HAIM HERZOG, IN A NATIONAL TELEVISION COMMENTARY.

"THE EGYPTIANS, IN FACT, HAVE DOUBLED THAT NUMBER TO 12 OR MORE IN EACH BATTERY," HE SAID. "I BELIEVE IT HAS BEEN DONE TO SEE HOW FAR THEY WILL BE ALLOWED TO GO."

IN CAIRO, EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ISMAIL FAHMI MET U.S. AMBASSADOR HERMAN EILTS IN CAIRO LATE TUESDAY TO DISCUSS THE DISENGAGEMENT OF SYRIAN AND ISRAELI TROOPS, EGYPTIAN NEWS-PAPER REPORTS SAID.

THE NEWSPAPER AL AHRAM SAID EGYPT WILL NOT TAKE PART IN THE SECOND PHASE OF THE GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE UNLESS SYRIA ALSO ATTENDED.

THE FIRST PHASE OF THE CONFERENCE, WHICH SYRIA DID NOT ATTEND, OPENED AND CLOSED IN DECEMBER WITH THE SETTING OF A MILITARY COMMITTEE THAT BROUGHT ABOUT THE DISENGAGEMENT OF ISRAELI AND EGYPTIAN FORCES.

IN A SEPARATE REPORT, AL AHRAM SAID EGYPTIAN, AMERICAN AND BRITISH EXPERTS WILL MEET IN ALEXANDRIA THURSDAY TO DRAW UP A PLAN FOR CLEARING MINES FROM THE SUEZ CANAL WHICH HAS BEEN CLOSED SINCE THE JUNE 1967 WAR.

THE NEWSPAPER QUOTED MASHHOUR AHMED MASHHOUR, THE SUEZ CANAL AUTHORITY CHAIRMAN, AS SAYING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN WILL TAKE SIX MONTHS.

DIPLOMATIC SOURCES SAID THE SOVIET UNION MAY JOIN THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN IN THE MINE-SWEEPING OPERATION.

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